

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 3, 4, 21 and 22 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 19, 23-26, 30, 31, 38 and 39 are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5-19, 23-34, 38 and 39 are currently pending and under consideration in the present application.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 32, 33, 38 AND 39 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY ISHIKAWA (USP# 5,717,510)

Claims 1 and 19 are amended herein to include the limitations of the "objected to" claims 4 and 22, respectively. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 19 define allowable subject matter.

Claims 14, 15, 17 and 18, and claims 32 and 33 depend from claims 1 and 19, respectively. Thus, for at least the reason that claims 1 and 19 distinguish over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14, 15, 17, 18, 32 and 33 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

Claims 38 and 39 are also amended herein to include the limitations of the "objected to" claims 4 and 22, respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 38 and 39 also define allowable subject matter.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3 AND 21 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER ISHIKAWA

Claims 3 and 21 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 16 AND 34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER ISHIKAWA IN VIEW OF TERAHARA (USP# 6,219,176)

Claims 16 and 34 depend from claim 19. Thus, for at least the reason claim 19 distinguishes over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16 and 34 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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